DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on large public gatherings and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants starting on March 17, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until at least May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The City of Medford, by and through Her Honor the Mayor and the Board of Health, in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, have determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the City of Medford, and as, such additional measures must be taken at this time; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, Her Honor the Mayor and the Medford Board of Health announced that that a local state of emergency exists in the City of Medford; and

WHEREAS, Her Honor the Mayor and the Medford Board of Health have determined that additional and immediate public action is needed in order to minimize the further spread and
acquisition of COVID-19, a serious public health emergency, by and among the people of the City of Medford; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with local, state, and federal guidance to date, these additional steps defined below are necessary and prudent to preserve public health and safety in the City; and

WHEREAS, to minimize the further, increased threat to public health, the City requests that all residents and business owners comply with all federal, state and local Orders at this time, including, but not limited to social distancing and crowd gathering; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Governor Baker issued COVID-19 Order No. 21, extending and revising the provisions of COVID-19 Order No. 13, which ordered the closing of non-essential workplaces in the Commonwealth; The revised Order remains in effect until at least May 4, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, in order to lessen the spread of COVID-19 and to minimize its further impact on members of the community, it is hereby ordered, by Her Honor the Mayor and the Medford Board of Health, that:

(1) Effective at 12:00pm on April 1, 2020, no visitors will be allowed to enter any Medford Housing Authority (“MHA”) property or property maintained by the Medford Housing Authority. Visitors may contact a resident outside on the grounds to deliver food, water, medicine and/or other items essential to a resident’s wellbeing but must do so while abiding by social distancing guidelines (i.e. six feet physical separation, no close contact, no handshakes or physical greetings). This Order does not apply to home health aides, visiting nurses, public safety personnel, or other essential medical services. This Order shall remain in effect until at least May 4, 2020 or until the Order is lifted.

(2) Effective at 12:00pm on April 1, 2020, all in-person showings of units and homes for rent or sale are ordered to cease. Property owners, landlords, managers, and real estate brokers and agents are advised to use electronic means to show all properties as part of the rental or sale process. This Order shall remain in effect until at least May 4, 2020 or until the Order is lifted.

Date: 3/31/20

Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn, City of Medford